

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 6, 9, and 10. These sheets, which include Figs. 2, 6, 9, and 10, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 6, 9, and 10.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 were pending in the present application. Claims 10-12 are allowable. The present response amends claims 1, 8, 11, and 12; cancels claims 6-7, 9-10, and 13-19; and adds new claims 20-25, leaving pending in the application claims 1-5, 8, 11-12, and 20-25.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and consideration of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “210” has been used to designate both a main electrode and a photodetector in Fig. 2. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s attention to detail, and have submitted a replacement Fig. 2 renumbering the photodetector using reference character “216.” The specification has been amended accordingly.

The drawings also are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the specification. Applicants again appreciate the Examiner’s attention to detail, and have submitted replacement figures removing the identified reference characters. The reference characters refer to elements that are similar to elements described with respect to other figures and embodiments, such that the reference numbers are not necessary for an understanding of these embodiments.

These changes do not add new matter to the disclosure and are supported by the specification. The changes to the Figs. and specification are not intended to alter the scope of the invention or be interpreted as a limitation on the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

II. Objection to the Claims

Claims 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claim 10, along with any intervening claims, have been amended to be included in claim 1, such that claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and should be in condition for allowance. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims, such that claim 12 should be in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 12, along with dependent claims 2-5 and 8 should be in condition for allowance.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or (b) as being anticipated by *Fujikawa* (5,313,487), *Das* (US 2002/0012376), and/or *Ness* (US 6,549,551). As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of previous claim 10, such that amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 8 are not anticipated by *Fujikawa*, *Das*, and/or *Ness*. Claims 6, 7, 9, and 13-19 have been canceled. These amendments were made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims, and are not intended to be an acquiescence to the rejections made with respect to *Fujikawa*, *Das*, and/or *Ness*. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 8 contain allowable limitations and request that the rejection with respect to claims 1-5 and 8 be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Das* in view of *Fujikawa* and/or *Ness* in view of *Fujikawa*. Claims 15-17 have been canceled, and claim 4 depends from claim 1, which as discussed above has been amended to include allowable limitations and is in condition for allowance. These amendments were made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims, and are not intended to be an acquiescence to the rejections made with respect to *Fujikawa*, *Das*, and/or *Ness*. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claim 4 be withdrawn.

V. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter to the specification.

VI. Amendment to the Specification

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter to the specification.

VII. Newly Presented Claims

Claims 20-25 have been added to cover different aspects of the present invention. In particular, these claims require, in part:

receiving an optical pulse from a second discharge chamber; and
applying a trigger ionization voltage to an ionization element in the first discharge chamber, **subsequent to the charging of the pair of main discharge electrodes**, such that the main discharge voltage between the main discharge electrodes is discharged, in response to the applying of the trigger ionization voltage, at a time that substantially coincides with the receiving of the optical pulse

(*emphasis added*). Ness, for example, discloses “preionizers 56” that “weakly ionize the lasing gas between electrodes” “during the voltage buildup on the peaking capacitor” (col. 2, lines 16-25). Claims 20-25 require a trigger ionization voltage (not a pre-ionization as in Ness) to be applied subsequent to the charging of the pair of main discharge electrodes. As discussed in the specification, such as beginning on page 9, this provides a much finer control over timing of the discharge to coincide with the receiving of the optical pulse. Such timing control was not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Ness*, and would not be obvious when combined with the teachings of *Fujikawa* or *Das*, discussed above. These claims are supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request consideration and allowance of newly presented claims 20-25.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

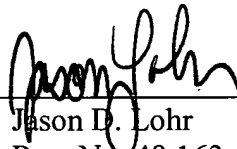
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order

No. LMPY-20220. A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed May 3, 2005, is provided herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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